

SEMINOLE CO.'S PUBLIC HEALTH HERO



Herald photos by Tommy Vincent

Disease Intervention Specialist Iris Quinn (center) is recognized Thursday as a Public Health Hero during a ceremony at the Florida Department of Health in Seminole County. The ceremony was held to celebrate 125 years of public health in the State of Florida.



Dr. Jorge Deju (left) and County Commissioner Lee Constantine both spoke during the 125th anniversary ceremony Thursday at the Florida Department of Health in Seminole County on Airport Boulevard (below).



By Rachel Delinski
Herald Editor

The Florida Department of Health of Seminole County celebrated 125 years of public health Thursday during an open house and award ceremony.

Disease Intervention Specialist Iris Quinn was honored as a Public Health Hero during the event for her work in the community. Quinn has worked for the health department in Seminole County for more than 30 years and was the first full-time tuberculosis nurse in the county.

According to officials at the health department, Quinn goes above and beyond in her effort to locate patients, even providing direct observed therapy in the woods of the homeless patients and meeting with them in the center of the city.

The department called her "the face of the TB Program in Seminole County."

During the ceremony Thursday guests also heard from Director of Community Health Donna Walsh, Former Seminole County Health Officer Dr. Jorge Deju, and County Commissioner Lee Constantine.

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Iris Quinn

Disease Intervention Specialist at Florida Department of Health in Seminole County

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The ceremony honored the 125th anniversary of public health in Florida, as well as the health department's history in Seminole County. The department was formed to handle public health issues such as infant mortality, syphilis, tuberculosis, hookworm, and dental

health. By 1958 the staff in Seminole County consisted of a director, two sanitarians and three nurses.

In 1960, a new building was built to house the health department and 1985 the current building on Airport Boulevard was occupied.

Today, the Seminole County Health Department employs 153 full-time staff and approximately 33 temporary staff members including physicians, nurses, and administrative staff. There is also an office located in Casselberry.

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